

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Dr. Maya Angelou, born Marguerite Annie Johnson on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, moved to Stamps, Arkansas, at the age of three to live with her grandmother, Annie Henderson, and her Uncle Willie, until she relocated to her mother's home in California at the age of fourteen; and

WHEREAS: Those formative years in Stamps laid the foundation for her eventual acclaim as an author, poet, actor, educator, and activist, whose talents sprang from the great soul and fierce courage forged during the early years of her life; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Angelou called Arkansas home until her death in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on May 28, 2014. Six weeks before her death, she had written a letter of regret to the Fayetteville Public Library when ill health prevented her from making an appearance there. In the letter, she stated, "I long to come to the State of Arkansas . . . I learned in Arkansas at a very young age from my grandmother who taught me, 'when you learn, teach, and when you get, give' . . . In Arkansas I also learned not to complain . . . In Arkansas, I learned to trust love, not the romance of it, but the heart of it. In Arkansas I learned to have respect for friendship, to honor it, to trust it, and to build it"; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Angelou's courageous honesty about childhood trauma has empowered others to vocalize and heal and, like Dr. Angelou, make their voices count; her multifaceted creativity has blessed and elevated artistic expression across the globe; her own towering example has inspired and motivated an army of phenomenal women; and her unflinching analysis of debilitating racism has helped pave the way for change, opportunity, and hope; and

WHEREAS: The City of Stamps, Arkansas, through its Mayor and City Council, has resolved that the area adjacent to Lake June be known as the Dr. Maya Angelou Memorial Park to "commemorate the memory, accomplishments, and future recognition of a former resident who, over the course of a lifetime, became known to people from all walks of life as a model for overcoming adversity while still seeking unity, for achieving fame in many fields of endeavor, and for being honored as one of the few Inaugural Poets in the Country";


NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 4th 2016, as

MAYA ANGELOU DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage urge my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing Dr. Maya Angelou's exemplary life and legacy during this commemoration of her roots in this great State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 18th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2016.





Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Mark Martin, Secretary Of State